

the circumstances. A strong public health approach, led by Vermont Health Commissioner Mark Levine, always communicated scientific evidence clearly and thoughtfully. This fostered a sense of trust and community that has now resulted in Vermont nearing herd immunity and able to fully reopen local businesses for everyone to enjoy.

I am so proud of every Vermonter who stepped up to do their part to not only protect themselves, but their families, friends, and neighbors. This is truly the Vermont way. I know that if all States followed Vermont's example, and continued to vaccinate all residents, we would be able to put this dark chapter of American history in our rearview mirror.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article mentioned above, about the important work in Vermont to protect our State from the COVID-19 pandemic.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, July 13, 2021]

VERMONT'S AND SOUTH DAKOTA'S COVID INFECTION RATES ARE REMARKABLY SIMILAR—BUT THEIR OUTCOMES ARE NOT

(By Ashish K. Jha)

Two states. Two different paths in responding to COVID-19. Together, they offer invaluable lessons about the road ahead for the nation—especially as infection rates creep up because of the delta variant.

The two states are Vermont and South Dakota. Both feature among the three states that COVID Act Now classifies as falling in the lowest-risk category, along with Massachusetts. This may be a surprise. While New England states are known to have done extraordinarily well in vaccinating their populations, South Dakota is in the middle of the pack. So, what explains the fact that South Dakota has infection numbers almost as low as Vermont, the most vaccinated state in the nation?

Let's start with some basics. Vermont and South Dakota share several important similarities. Both have relatively White, older and rural populations. They have comparable median incomes. Both states have Republican governors, challenging the simplistic notion that COVID risk is a partisan phenomenon.

Over the past two months, the rates of infection in Vermont and South Dakota have appeared remarkably similar. Both states have seen steep declines in cases, making both states near the best in terms of infections per population.

But this is where the similarity ends. While nearly 75 percent of Vermonters have had at least one vaccine shot, putting the state near the threshold for herd immunity, only half of South Dakotans have had at least one shot. South Dakota's substantial population immunity instead comes in large part from prior infections, particularly during the fall. This massive surge in infections was driven by the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in August that brought nearly half a million people to South Dakota, sparking outbreaks across that state and, indeed, the nation. With little to no interest on the part of its governor to squelch the outbreak, South Dakota reached the highest levels of infection seen by any state during the pandemic. At its peak, the state was reporting more than 160 new cases per 100,000 residents. Vermont, in comparison, never climbed above 30 cases per 100,000.

Unsurprisingly, these states experienced stunningly different outcomes. Adjusted for population, nearly six times as many people died in South Dakota from covid-19 as in Vermont (230 per 100,000 in South Dakota compared to just 40 per 100,000 in Vermont). In real numbers, while about 250 Vermont residents died from the disease, more than 2,000 South Dakotans died. And as of today, Vermont has a lower unemployment rate, suggesting that there need not be any trade-off between public health and the economy.

By some estimates, nearly half of the people of South Dakota may have been infected. These infections led to huge amounts of suffering beyond the deaths themselves. We are seeing an increasing body of evidence that many who survive serious illness from the virus have long-term complications and symptoms. When infections spike, a run on hospital beds means other people die because they can't access hospital care, which almost surely occurred in South Dakota at the height of the surge. Vermont took a different approach, keeping public health measures in place to keep infections low and then, building up population immunity through excellent vaccination campaigns.

The virus isn't going away. In fact, it is likely to become endemic, meaning it will continue to circulate, occasionally causing outbreaks in low-vaccination communities. Most people will encounter the virus at one point or another. And if they don't have immunity from vaccines, many will get sick. The harms from infection are large, especially in comparison to the generally mild side-effects of the vaccines. And there is some evidence that the vaccine-induced immunity is more effective than natural infection-induced immunity. As the highly contagious delta variant spreads, states that have experienced high levels of infection such as South Dakota may be more vulnerable than highly vaccinated states such as Vermont.

In the spring of 2020, governors had to make decisions with little federal guidance and little historical precedent. But by that summer, it was much clearer how to curtail the disease, protect public health and manage the economy carefully. By following the science, Vermont saved an enormous number of lives and has now reached a degree of population immunity through vaccination that makes large outbreaks unlikely. Embracing a policy of "personal responsibility," South Dakota did little to protect its residents, leading to the deaths of more than 2,000 South Dakotans and the suffering of tens of thousands more. To avoid more unnecessary outbreaks, we need to learn from states that have successfully weathered the pandemic, follow the science and keep vaccinating Americans.

REMEMBERING HARRY CHAPIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it has been 40 years since the Nation lost a champion for the hungry, and the American people lost a talented and inspirational musical artist. And I lost a dear partner and friend.

I was proud to have been able to work side by side with Harry Chapin on several projects to address hunger, here at home, and in the world. We strategized. We met with other Senators to build support. And I got to know him well. He stayed at our home and even sang for our enthralled children. I was with him on the grounds of the Capitol Building when he pulled out his guitar and gave an impromptu

concert. Passersby were drawn to him, and it was one more magical moment, among so many with Harry.

Harry had incredible energy and drive and commitment to his goals. Bill Ayres, a former Catholic priest who cofounded the organization WhyHunger with Harry, has noted that Harry used to say: "When in doubt, do something." And do something, he certainly did. Since its founding in 1975, WhyHunger has raised more than \$30 million to help more than 10 million families, children, veterans, and others around the world gain access to nutritious food and vital services.

One of Harry's ideas was to convince President Jimmy Carter to form a Commission on world hunger. I readily signed on to help him. When we had that meeting with the President in the Cabinet Room, Harry's persistence was on overdrive. President Carter agreed to establish the Commission. So that goal was in hand. But Harry kept telling the President why we should do this, and President Carter kept trying to tell Harry that he agreed with him. Harry was wound up and excited to have the chance to lay out the case for a Commission. And I finally said: "Harry, don't talk him out of it." Everyone laughed because we all knew that it was a moment that distilled the pure energy for which we all loved and admired him.

I worked with Senator Byron Dorgan and others in gaining authorization for a Congressional Gold Medal, which I was honored to carry to a memorial concert at Carnegie Hall to present to Harry's family. Harry Belafonte and Bruce Springsteen were there and so were so many others who had known and worked with Harry. Harry Belafonte, whom I also admire so deeply, has said this:

I grew to really admire him, not only for his commitment to the cause of hunger, but also the fact that he did it with such passion, such real commitment. As an artist, I certainly loved his work. Not only his music, but the content of his words. He spoke about the human condition with a sense of humor and as a lyricist he had his hand on the pulse of social needs.

A few years ago, I received a letter from a 16-year-old Canadian boy in Newmarket, Ontario, Ryan Kruger. He had heard about my work with Harry and wanted me to know how much he admires him.

"I am a big fan of Harry," he wrote, "and think he exemplifies the ideals of both of our respective nations, as well as the world, or at least what they should be. In this volatile political climate, on both sides of the border, as well as around the world, I think we need a bit more Harry."

And we certainly do.

Harry's children wrote an eloquent tribute that was carried in the New York Daily News on July 16. They, and many of us, want to keep alight and aloft the candle that helps Harry Chapin's important legacy live on and on.

I commend their tribute to the attention of the Senate.

I ask unanimous consent to have the article printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Daily News, July 16, 2021]

HOW HARRY CHAPIN, OUR DAD, FOUGHT HUNGER

(By Josh Chapin, Jen Chapin, Jason Chapin, Jono Chapin and Jaime Chapin)

For many, attaining fame and fortune is enough to feel successful. For our father, Harry Chapin, it wasn't. His true fulfillment came through service, and 40 years following his untimely death, along with his timeless hit song "Cat's in the Hat," our dad's passionate commitment to ending hunger is what he is best remembered for. During his life (1942–1981), he released 11 albums, performed 220 concerts a year, and received Grammy and Oscar nominations as well as Emmy, Tony and many other awards, including the Congressional Gold Medal. While music was his passion, our father's success became not laurels to rest upon but rather a platform that led to his becoming one of the leading humanitarians of his generation.

Through starting three dynamic and visionary organizations in his short lifetime, WhyHunger, Long Island Cares and the Center for Food Action in New Jersey, he left a lasting impact in the fight against hunger and poverty.

Today marks 40 years since our father's passing in an automobile accident on the Long Island Expressway. It's been four decades without him—four decades of change in culture, politics, music and technology—but after all that change, and even a global pandemic, his legacy organizations WhyHunger and Long Island Cares remain centered on fulfilling our dad's mission of deeply understanding the root causes of hunger and seeking solutions grounded in community power and self-reliance.

Notably, during his lifetime, our father worked with President Jimmy Carter, his dear friend and Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy, Republican Sen. Bob Dole, and a bipartisan team to form the first and only Presidential Commission on World Hunger. Our father's work to create political urgency and a truly patriotic, bipartisan dialogue surrounding the human right to nutritious food—in our wealthy nation and in a world that can feed itself many times over—should be a call to inspire a new surge of commitment today.

While he embarked on a mission decades ago to combat hunger, the work is far from complete. Today, nearly 2.1 million New Yorkers face hunger every day. On Long Island, nearly half a million face the same reality—a problem that's many times worse than when he started Long Island Cares in 1980. These statistics are staggering, and sadly have increased over recent years. While prior to COVID-19, Long Island neared a 40% reduction of food insecurity, during the height of the pandemic, an additional 223,000 Long Islanders became food insecure, nearly doubling the prior population count.

A generous charitable response and a massive, industrialized emergency food system are not enough. What our father understood years ago is that in order to ameliorate this needless suffering, we need to address the root causes and advance the human right to nutritious food in the U.S. and around the world. Hunger in the U.S. and hunger around the world are deeply connected, and thanks to the work of WhyHunger and our diverse array of partners, exciting alliances are building self-reliance and lasting change. WhyHunger has shown that by offering crit-

ical resources to support grassroots movements, we can build community solutions rooted in social, environmental, racial and economic justice.

Our hope is that the current administration is prepared to substantively address these issues and do what our father knew was, and still is, possible: bring an end to hunger. Currently, Rep. James McGovern of Massachusetts is asking President Biden to convene a new White House Conference on Hunger, just as our father pushed for four decades ago. When asked what his motivation was for this cause, McGovern said that meeting Harry left a lasting impression on his political views on hunger.

What Harry Chapin began with WhyHunger, Long Island Cares and the Center for Food Action continues to make a great impact, but of course there is more to be done. More organizations need to realize that fighting hunger is not only about handing out food in times of need, or even the proverbial teaching people to fish—it is about supporting social movements so that people can organize, advocate and work together to ensure they will always be able to feed their families. Additionally, we need to keep speaking up for social and legislative reform that promotes social and economic justice. If you happened to love our father's music and message, if you care about America reaching its yet unrealized mission of justice for all, or if you want to live in a more peaceful and sustainable world, consider this a call to action.

The authors are the sons and daughters of Harry Chapin.

TRIBUTE TO TANNER HAUCK

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Tanner Hauck, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Tanner is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ, where he is pursuing degrees in finance and business entrepreneurship. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Tanner for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN MEYER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Steven Meyer, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Steven is a recent graduate of Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, having earned a degree in government and criminal justice. This fall, Steven plans to attend the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University in Washington, DC. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Steven for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL SCHOON

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Rachel Schoon, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Rachel is from Brandon, SD, where she graduated a semester early from homeschool to participate in a 6-month-long mission trip overseas. Currently, she is attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, where she is pursuing degrees in communications and political science. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Rachel for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL SILVERNAGEL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Samuel Silvernagel, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Samuel is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN, having earned degrees in Russian and business law. This fall, Samuel plans to continue serving the American people by working on Capitol Hill. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Samuel for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO KYLEE VAN EGDOM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kylee Van Egdome, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Kylee is a graduate of Sioux Falls Christian High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, she is attending Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, where she is majoring in government. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kylee for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: